

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 12, 13 and 19 – 26 without prejudice, and add new Claims 27 – 43
5 as follows:

1. (Previously presented) Bear excluding apparatus, comprising:
a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said aperture having a
diameter nearly the full diameter of the body;
a threaded cap having at least one locking element associated therewith;
10 wherein said cap threads onto or off said body by the action of a human; and
a ridge formed proximate said cap, said ridge having a diameter larger than an outside
diameter of said cap and having a region extending upward beyond a lower edge of said cap when
said cap is fully threaded onto said body;
wherein said body, ridge and cap cooperate to exclude said bear from said interior volume.

15 2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said cap comprises a lower edge, said
lower edge mating substantially flush with a corresponding surface of said body so as to
substantially eliminate any gap there between.

3. – 4. (Cancelled)

20 5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body is formed of polycarbonate,
and said cap is formed of nylon.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body and said cap coordinate to
dissipate energy applied to said apparatus by said animal without causing said cap to separate from
said body.

25 7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said body is substantially smooth and
featureless so as to frustrate said animal in applying force thereto.

8. (Previously presented) Bear excluding container apparatus, comprising:
a molded body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body further
comprising first threads and being adapted to withstand forces exerted by said bear;
a molded cap having a locking element associated therewith and second threads, said cap
30 being retained on said body through at least cooperation of said first and second threads; and

at least one exclusion ridge formed on said body proximate said first threads, said at least one ridge being adapted to substantially shield a gap created between said cap and said body when said cap is threaded at least partly onto said body;

5 wherein access to said volume by said bear is frustrated by said locking element, said body, said ridge, and said cap.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said locking element is adapted to require at least some distortion of at least one of said molded cap or body for said cap to be threadably removed from said body.

10 10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said body is substantially comprised of polycarbonate, and said cap is substantially comprised of a nylon-based polymer.

11. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) Bear excluding apparatus, comprising:

a body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said aperture having a diameter nearly the full diameter of the body;

15 a threaded cap having at least one locking means associated therewith;

wherein said cap threads onto or off said body by the action of a human; and

ridge means formed proximate said cap, said ridge means having a diameter larger than an outside diameter of said cap and having a region extending upward beyond a lower edge of said cap when said cap is fully threaded onto said body;

20 wherein said body, ridge means, locking means and cap cooperate to exclude said bear from said interior volume.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said cap comprises a lower edge, said lower edge mating substantially flush with a corresponding surface of said body so as to substantially eliminate any gap there between.

25 29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said body is formed of polycarbonate, and said cap is formed of nylon.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said body and said cap coordinate to dissipate energy applied to said apparatus by said bear without causing said cap to separate from said body.

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31. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said body is substantially smooth and featureless so as to frustrate said animal in applying force thereto.

32. (New) Bear excluding container apparatus, comprising:

a molded body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body further
5 comprising first threads and being adapted to withstand forces exerted by said bear;

a molded cap having locking means associated therewith and second threads, said cap being retained on said body through at least cooperation of said first and second threads; and

at least one exclusion means formed on said body proximate said first threads, said at least one exclusion means being adapted to substantially shield a gap created between said cap and said
10 body when said cap is threaded at least partly onto said body;

wherein access to said volume by said bear is frustrated by said locking means, said body, said exclusion means, and said cap.

33. (New) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said locking means is adapted to require at least some distortion of at least one of said molded cap or body for said cap to be threadably
15 removed from said body.

34. (New) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said body is substantially comprised of polycarbonate, and said cap is substantially comprised of a nylon-based polymer.

35. (New) Bear excluding apparatus, comprising:

a body comprising an interior volume, a first locking element and an aperture formed
20 therein, said aperture having a diameter nearly the full diameter of the body;

a threaded cap having a second locking element associated therewith;

wherein said cap threads onto or off said body by the action of a human; and

a ridge formed proximate said cap, said ridge having a diameter larger than an outside diameter of said cap and having a region extending upward beyond a lower edge of said cap when
25 said cap is fully threaded onto said body;

wherein said body, ridge, first and second locking elements, and said cap cooperate to exclude said bear from said interior volume.

36. (New) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said cap comprises a lower edge, said lower edge mating substantially flush with a corresponding surface of said body so as to
30 substantially eliminate any gap there between.

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37. (New) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said body comprises polycarbonate, and said cap comprises nylon.

38. (New) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said body and said cap coordinate to dissipate energy applied to said apparatus by said animal without causing said cap to separate from
5 said body.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said body is substantially smooth and featureless so as to frustrate said bear in applying force thereto.

40. (New) Bear excluding container apparatus, comprising:
a molded body having an interior volume and an aperture formed therein, said body further
10 comprising first threads and being adapted to withstand forces exerted by said bear;
a molded cap having a locking element associated therewith and second threads, said cap being retained on said body through at least cooperation of said first and second threads; and
at least one exclusion ridge formed on said body proximate said first threads, said at least one ridge being adapted to substantially shield a gap created between said cap and said body when
15 said cap is threaded at least partly onto said body;

wherein access to said volume by said bear is frustrated by said locking element, said body, said ridge, and said cap; and

wherein said locking element prevents said cap from being unthreaded enough to expose said gap unless said molded cap undergoes at least some distortion so that said cap may be
20 unthreaded from said body.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said body is substantially comprised of polycarbonate, and said cap is substantially comprised of a nylon-based polymer.

42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, further comprising a plurality of surface elements disposed on an exterior surface of said body, said surface elements adapted to provide
25 retention of one or more restraining devices.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said molded body, cap and ridge cooperate to substantially restrict moisture intrusion into said interior volume of said molded body.